Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] Locking mechanism **1204** and securing means **1300** are generally purchased as a single unit. Locking mechanism **1204** is fixedly installed into locking mechanism hole **1308** ~~**1208**~~, secured by, for example, retaining hardware **1310**, which may comprise any known fastening devices, such as a nut and bolt combination, a pin and receptacle combination, etc. Securing means **1300** typically comprises a retractable deadbolt, pin, latch, or other extrusion.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] FIG. **14** illustrates fin guard **1200**, shown in a side view, having housing **1202**, locking mechanism **1204**, shaft **1302**, tab **1304**, securing means **1300**, and lower surface **1400**. Securing means **1300** is shown in an extended position, with locking mechanism **1204** in a locked position. When locking mechanism **1204** is in an unlocked position, securing means **1300** retracts into housing **1202**. It should be understood that although this embodiment of fin guard **1200** comprises securing means **1300** being retractable and shaft **1302**/tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ being fixed with respect to housing **1202**, fin guard **1200** could alternatively comprise a shaft/tab combination that is rotatable with respect to housing **1202** by using locking mechanism **1204**, while securing means **1300** is fixed in an extended position as shown in FIG. **14**. In this embodiment, housing **1202** is placed over channel **1208** with tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ oriented parallel to channel **1208** and securing means **1300** aligned with channel **1208**, allowing both securing means **1300** and tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ to be inserted within channel **1208**, bringing housing **1202** flush against channel **1208**. Then, locking mechanism is placed in a locked position, whereby shaft **1302** and tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ are rotated such that tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ becomes perpendicular to channel **1208**, lodging tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ underneath a lip of channel **1208** (illustrated as lip **1600** in FIG. **16a**). In this position, housing **1202** is prevented from being removed from channel **1208** by tab **1304** ~~**1204**~~ engaged with the lip of channel **1208**, while housing **1202** is prevented from being rotated by securing means **1300**.

Please replace paragraph [0082] with the following amended paragraph:

[0082] Cushion **2000** comprises a contact surface **2002** which is designed to conform to a surfboard rail cross-section. Contact surface **2002** ~~**1202**~~ comprises a material which is semi-rigid, allowing the contact surface **2002** to flex and fit snugly against a surfboard rail. The material comprises a smooth surface so that the surfboard rails are not scratched or otherwise damaged by the cushion. Examples of such materials include plastic, rubber, polyurethane, or other suitable material. Cushion **2000** typically comprises filler **2004** for helping maintain the overall shape of the cushion. Filler **2004** may comprise varying degrees of elasticity, ranging from soft to hard. In one embodiment, filler **2004** comprises foam rubber, but in other embodiments, could comprise plastic, epoxy, resin, rubber, wood, etc. In yet another embodiment, no filler is used.